

PUBLIC DEFENDER FEES

The public defender assigned to your case is NOT free. Missouri law requires that you be charged a fee for public defender services.

WHAT YOU WILL OWE: The amount owed depends on your charge. The chart below will show you what you can expect to pay:

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES
Effective July 1, 2014

Entry with early withdrawal	\$25
Misdemeanors and Probation Violation Cases	\$125
Felonies, Appeals and Post-Conviction Relief	\$375
Felony Sex Cases	\$500
Murder Non-Capital and Civil Commitment Cases	\$750
Capital Murder Case	\$1,500

If you have more than one charge, you will be charged the fee for the most serious charge. If you have more than one case, you will be charged a separate fee for each case. (If all your charges are listed together on the same complaint under the same case number, they are all considered one case. If each charge is listed on its own separate document – sometimes called a complaint, an information, or an indictment—each with a different case number, then those are considered separate cases and will each carry a separate fee.)

You will receive a *Public Defender Fee Assessment* form for each case the Public Defender is providing you representation, specifying the amount of the case fee.

No fee will be assessed if you are under the age of 18 at the time of applying for public defender services, or if you are charged as a juvenile.

IF YOU LATER HIRE A PRIVATE ATTORNEY: If you ask the Public Defender to represent you and then later decide to hire a private attorney, you will still owe the public defender fee.

PAYMENTS: The local public defender office where your lawyer works cannot take any payments. Payments must be made online or by mail to the Missouri Public Defender State Office. The fees become due as soon as your case is completed or the public defender withdraws from your case. You can make payments of as little as \$5.00 at a time. You can make payments once a week, once a month, once a pay period, or whenever you can, until the fee is paid off. If you qualify for a state income tax refund or win money from the state lottery before you have paid off your public defender fee, instead of sending that money to you, the State of Missouri may use it to pay whatever is still owed on your public defender fee(s).

INABILITY TO PAY DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: You are expected to make voluntary payments by a single payment or by installments of reasonable amounts, when you are financially able to meet all or some part of the costs of services provided by the Public Defender. **Missouri state income tax refunds** and **Missouri lottery winnings** will be intercepted by the State of Missouri to pay off outstanding public defender fees. You can challenge an involuntary interception of your Missouri state income tax refund or Missouri lottery winnings due to financial hardship. The request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Missouri Public Defender according to the instructions contained in the written

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notice you will receive at the time of the involuntary intercept. Please understand: *The fact that you cannot pay the fee right NOW is not grounds for a fee to be waived.* The question is whether you will EVER be able to pay the fee, even months or years down the road.

WHEN AND WHERE TO PAY:

The fees become due as soon as your case is completed or the public defender withdraws from your case.

To pay online:	http://www.publicdefender.mo.gov/payments
To mail a payment:	Missouri Public Defender P.O. Box 10282 Columbia, MO 65205 (Check or Money Order. PLEASE do not send cash)

Missouri state income tax refunds and **Missouri lottery winnings** will be intercepted by the State of Missouri to pay off outstanding public defender fees.

If you have questions: **Call 573-777-9944**

Since many people have the same name, you will need your case number(s) in order to make sure your payments are credited to the right person and fee(s). Your lawyer can give you copies of your paperwork with your case number or write it below for you to keep:

CASE NUMBER: _____